

REMARKS

Claims 36-76 are pending, and claims 1-35 have been canceled.

The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 55-76.

The specification has been amended to correct the clerical error noted by the examiner.

Claims 36-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

The office action objected to the limitation “wherein the rotating member is coupled to the reference member so that the rotational axis moves together with the reference member” because the only rotational axis set forth in the claim is that of rotating member (498). Actually, the rotational axis recited in the claims is axis ROT in Fig. 24, and rotational axis ROT moves together with reference member (498). Thus, it is believed that the claims satisfy the written description requirement.

Claims 36-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Walter, et al (US 5,217,094). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

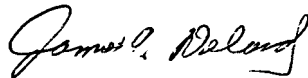
Claim 36 recites the rotating member being coupled to the reference member so that the rotational axis moves together with the reference member. In other words, *both* the rotational axis and the reference member move, and the rotational axis moves *with* the reference member. The office action seems to be taking the view that changing the relative position between the rivet (57) and either the holding pawl (45) or the toggle member (60) satisfies the claim requirement that the rotational axis moves together with the reference member. However, rivet (57) is secured to a main supporting bracket (15) that is adapted to be attached by fasteners (16) to a fixed frame member (17) beneath the instrument panel of the vehicle. Thus, rivet (57), which forms the pivot axis of both holding pawl (45) (interpreted by the office action to be a rotating member) and toggle lever (60) (interpreted by the office action to be a reference member) does not move at all, even with itself, and certainly does not move with toggle lever (reference member) (60).

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Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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